

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my extreme disappointment in the mediocre efforts of the Republican administration and leadership to adequately fund the Veterans Administration. Their lack of consideration and foresight led to an enormous shortfall in veterans' health care funding which we must immediately remedy.

Time after time, the Republican majority has shown our beloved veterans where their priorities lie. For the 2005 and 2006 budgets, they were unwilling to listen to Democrats who have consistently fought for increases for veterans' health care. More than a year ago, my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Mr. EVANS, made it known that the funding for the VA would fall immensely short of what is required for proper health services—over \$1.3 billion short.

Despite these figures, the Administration and Republican leadership continued their indifference towards helping our veterans. They were reluctant to admit any shortfall in VA health care funding until recently, when they reversed their position by asking for supplemental funding of \$975 million. Still, my Democratic colleagues and I were dissatisfied because it still fell short of the \$1.3 billion total that was necessary. Finally, just yesterday, the Bush Administration admitted that an additional \$300 million was needed to secure veterans' health care for FY05.

While it is nice to see that the Republican leadership has finally decided to take care of our veterans, this delayed and belated action is unacceptable. Many VA medical facilities have already been affected by the lack of funds. They have begun cutting nursing and medical staff, closing operating rooms, and not scheduling medical appointments.

Though many speak of acknowledging the contributions of our veterans, actions speak louder than words.

It is not enough to thank our veterans for their contributions and then fail to provide them with the fundamental right of access to health care.

We must continue the work we have seen from the Senate and supplement the budget with an additional \$1.5 billion in funding for veterans' health care.

It is the least we can do for those that have sacrificed to defend our country.

A TRIBUTE TO ARMY RESERVE PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LOWELL W. BELLAR

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I pay tribute to Army Reserve Private First Class Lowell W. Bellar for his bravery in the field of battle and his willingness to fight for his country. Private First Class Bellar lost his life on December 1, 1950 in North Korea. Almost 55 years later, his sacrifice will be remembered at funeral services on Friday, July 15, 2005, on his birthday.

A native of Gary, Indiana, Private Lowell Bellar graduated from Horace Mann High School. It came as no surprise to those who knew Private Bellar that he would serve his country. A true patriot, his love for his country was evident from the time he was a child. He wanted to help make a difference in the world. Private Bellar entered active duty on his 17th birthday in 1948. He was one of more than 1,000 soldiers who had to be left behind in the Battle of Chosin Reservoir as enemy troops from the People's Republic of China overran the region.

Private Bellar was reportedly killed on December 1, 1950, during the Korean War. He was among more than 8,000 United Nations soldiers that never returned home. Private Bellar was classified as missing in action until recently. In April 2005 his family was notified that his remains were recovered. Private Lowell Bellar will finally be buried with full military honors on his birthday, more than a half-century after he was declared missing in action in North Korea. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. He gave his life so that the freedoms and values that he treasured could be enjoyed by those around the world.

Although he loved his unit and his country, Private Bellar treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his brother, George Bellar, also an Army veteran, his wife Pat, their children and grandchildren. These individuals were the heroes to a man that we will forever call a hero, and we should honor them in this tumultuous moment as well.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Private Lowell W. Bellar. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

CONGRATULATING THE STROUDSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES AERIE 1106 ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues to pay tribute to the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 1106 which is celebrating a century of service this month.

Founded by 6 theater owners in Seattle, Washington, in 1898, while discussing their mutual interest in a musician's strike, the Eagles went on to attract members from the performing arts including actors, stagehands, playwrights, etc. That accounted for the rapid growth of the organization in the first decade of the 20th century because performers often toured the country and, as they did, they recruited more and more people who desired to belong to such an organization.

The stated mission of the Fraternal Order of Eagles is to unite fraternally for mutual benefit, protection, improvement, social enjoyment and association, all persons of good moral character who believe in a Supreme Being to inculcate the principles of liberty, truth, justice and equality; to perpetuate itself as a fraternal organization and to provide for its government as its constitution, laws, rituals, by-laws or other rules and regulations may, from time to time, provide and to promote the general welfare and to raise funds for duly authorized charities.

Over the years, the Eagles fought and won many battles. Among them are a Workman's Compensation Act, Mothers and Old Age Pensions and Social Security. The Eagles also continue to raise funds for the Art Ehrmann Cancer Fund, the Max Bear Heart Fund, the Jimmy Durante Children's Fund, the "Doc" Dunlap Kidney Fund and the Diabetes Fund.

Many great social and political leaders have belonged to the Eagles. President Theodore Roosevelt was a member and he praised the order for its humanitarian accomplishments. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt echoed those comments and President Harry S. Truman often said that the Eagles was his type of organization, one founded by and for the common man.

Locally, the Stroudsburg Fraternal Order of Eagles, which boasts 1,700 members and 450 auxiliary members, has labored tirelessly on behalf of abused women and children, Alzheimer's victims and the heart, kidney and cancer funds.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Stroudsburg Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 1106 on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. The greater Stroudsburg community is blessed to have such a wonderful organization advocating on its behalf and raising the quality of life in that part of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HIGHER EDUCATION
SUSTAINABILITY ACT OF 2005

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Higher Education Sustainability Act of 2005," which would authorize \$50 million for 25 Sustainability Education Programs across the country to develop and implement integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability programs. Each Sustainability Program will focus on multidisciplinary research, education, and outreach at institutions of higher education.

Sustainable development practices are being advanced by hundreds of U.S. cities and companies and through a variety of international agencies including the United Nations and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. As population growth, urban development and extreme weather incidents place great stress on ecosystems around the globe, the need for developing innovative and successful sustainable development practices becomes critical to sustaining our economic competitiveness, improving our environmental health and creating more livable communities.

In my home State of Oregon, we have many great examples of sustainable development and livable communities. Portland State University, located in my hometown, provides an excellent example of how to incorporate sustainability throughout the curriculum. Faculty from the departments of social sciences, life sciences, physical sciences, humanities, as well as the professional schools have been working to incorporate sustainability principles in their coursework and research.

Portland State University's Sustainability Initiative has placed a high priority on Green Buildings on campus that use smart technology to improve operational performance and produce significant savings. The City of Portland awarded PSU's, Stephen Epler Residence Hall and Broadway Housing with the Businesses for an Environmentally Sustainable Tomorrow award for sustainable stormwater management. The Epler buildings harvests rainwater from the roof for use in restrooms and features low-flow water fixtures for showers and toilets resulting in cost savings of \$5,000 each year. The Broadway Housing features 20,000 square feet of an "ecorooft," one of the largest in a dense urban environment. Faculty and students designed a monitoring program to measure impacts of the ecorooft and preliminary studies show a 21 percent reduction in runoff. This is an exemplary example of how faculty uses the buildings as real laboratories.

These innovations are just a few among many that are already underway in colleges and universities across the nation. This legislation will ensure that we can extend these innovations to institutions of higher learning across the country. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make a commitment to making our educational communities more sustainable and livable.

TRIBUTE TO FAIRFAX DISTRICT
WORLD WAR II B-25J PRODUCTION WORKERS

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, as the Library of Congress continues its efforts to memorialize American veterans through the Veterans History Project, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor 59,337 men and women in Kansas City who proudly served the home front and their Nation in a time of dire need.

In what is known as the "Fairfax District" in Kansas City, Kansas, North American Aviation of Kansas, a B-25J "Mitchell" bomber production plant, built 6,608 of the 9,817 bombers used during World War II. This number represents 67 percent, or 2 out of every 3 B-25J bombers built for the war effort. The women and men working in this factory sacrificed their sweat, blood, and tears to ensure that the United States remained strong and equipped during this fight.

As thousands and thousands of our citizens joined in the fight and left their jobs to serve in uniform, factories all across the country were facing a labor shortage, at the same time they were being called upon to produce vital equipment needed by our troops. In order to fulfill this need and do their part in the war effort, women joined the workforce and kept our factories busy producing machinery for the military effort, like the bombers produced at North American Aviation of Kansas. As some of the first women to join the industrial revolution, their hard work and dedication earned these women the nickname "Rosie the Riveter." Working hard right beside these "Riveters", men embraced their new colleagues as coworkers and equals, ripping down previous barriers of gender-based stereotypes in the work place.

As the United States continues to fight injustice around the world today, it is important to remember the courageous production workers who continue to give our military the equipment they need to stay safe and continue to prevail in the most dangerous of encounters. Mr. Speaker, I thank the "Bomber Builders" of the North American Aviation-Kansas aeronautical production plant who began today's tradition of continued sacrifice by offering their dedication, pride, and unwavering support for their nation during World War II when our Nation and the cause of freedom needed them the most.

TAIWAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, one year ago, Chen Shui-bian was re-elected President of Taiwan. The election was the closest in Taiwan's history and marked a reaffirmation that Taiwan is a strong democracy.

The anniversary of President Chen's reelection provides an important opportunity to review events in Taiwan and across the Taiwan Strait in China. As my colleagues know,

China recently enacted a so-called "anti secession" law, which China says gives it the right to use military force against Taiwan if Taiwan decides to declare independence. This law is extremely provocative and potentially destabilizing. Like many of my colleagues, I have condemned this law, and I will continue to do so.

During the past several weeks, the 2 main opposition leaders in Taiwan have traveled to China to meet with the leaders of the Communist Party. These trips have sparked intense debate in Taiwan about the intentions of the Chinese leaders, as well as the future security of Taiwan. This debate is additional evidence of the openness and maturity of the democratic society Taiwan currently enjoys.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan reveres its freedom and its democratic form of government. As Taiwan's friend and ally, I believe it is important for the United States to monitor the situation in the Taiwan Strait very carefully to help ensure Taiwan is not forced into a position which would endanger its freedom or its democracy. President Chen has been a tireless advocate for protecting and enhancing Taiwan's freedom. I hope he will use the remaining three years of his second term in office to make certain Taiwan is protected and that Taiwan will be able to continue to flourish politically and economically.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is a good example of democracy in the Asia Pacific region. I applaud the people of Taiwan for their diligence and their enterprise. The democratic experiment in Taiwan has been an exciting one for the past two decades. It is my hope, and I believe many of my colleagues share the view, that similar adoption of democratic principles will someday spread to mainland China.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF AVON WILLIAMS III

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Avon Williams was a true friend and dedicated public servant. Over the years it has been a privilege of mine to count Avon and his family as friends. It has been America's good fortune that he chose to serve us all as a respected and capable member of the Pentagon's senior staff.

We grieve for the loss of a man who I know would have continued to do great things for our Nation. And I will miss his wisdom, his wit, and our wonderful conversations.

In Washington, Avon was well known and well respected as counsel for the U.S. Department of the Army. Tennesseans remember him as general counsel for the state Department of Safety and assistant commissioner for the state Department of Economic Development. And during the 1980s Avon represented the Nation as second secretary and vice consul in Manila, Philippines. This experience made him the resident foreign policy expert at our Friday afternoon Roundtable. The man was clearly a talented and gifted human being.

His life story is one of remarkable achievement, many friends, and a loving family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan and the Williams children as they honor and mourn this wonderful man.

We will never forget his contributions to our country and our state.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIE MIRZA ESHOO

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jennie Mirza Eshoo who will celebrate her 90th birthday on July 17, 2005.

Jennie Eshoo was born Jennie Katherine Mirza in Chicago, Illinois on July 17, 1915, to Agase B. Mirza and Martha Alaverdy Mirza, the first of the couple's seven children. She graduated from Waller High School in Chicago in 1934 and on September 22 of that year she married Paul Eshoo.

Jennie and Paul Eshoo moved from Chicago to Turlock, California where they raised four children, Peter, George, Agnes and Alice, on the family farm. They were active in the Assyrian-American community and Paul was a founder of the Turlock Assyrian American Civic Club.

Jennie has an abiding love of our country and serves our democracy as a faithful precinct supervisor on the elections board. She is a devoted member of St. John's Presbyterian Church where she's served as Clerk of the Session and Elder for more than 30 years. She is known throughout the community for her generosity and helpfulness to so many, and has volunteered at Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock for over three decades.

Jennie is an avid reader whose taste ranges from National Geographic to the latest novels. She loves to travel and relishes visiting in person the sites she has "visited" in the Bible and other readings. Jennie conquers crossword puzzles in minutes, entering each solution in ink, never needing an eraser.

Jennie Eshoo is the matriarch of a large and loving family. In addition to her four children, she has eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Her grandchildren are Lisa Brown, Lorie Hill, Cherie Thompson, Christine Benjamin Nedved, Michelle Benjamin Eldridge, Annelle Martella, Karen Eshoo and Paul Eshoo. Her great-grandchildren are Amanda and Emily Brown, Madison and Jacob Eldridge, Cory Hill, Katherine and Jacqueline Nedved, and Peter Thompson.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to honor Jennie Mirza Eshoo as she celebrates her 90th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me, her family and her many friends in saluting her as she celebrates this extraordinary milestone, and we thank her for her lifetime of service to her family, her community and her country.

TRIBUTE TO A.J. PETE REIXACH

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate A.J. Pete Reixach as the celebration of his having spent 20 years at Port Freeport rapidly approaches.

As American Association of Port Authorities President Kurt J. Nagle said recently, "Pete

deserves congratulations not only for reaching the remarkable milestone of 20 years at the Port, but also for the dramatic growth Port Freeport has achieved during his tenure. In an industry where the average tenure for a port director is less than 7 years, Pete's 20 years at Port Freeport are a tribute to his effectiveness in directing the Port and to the Port's substantial economic impacts to the region. He is both well-respected and recognized as an industry leader by his colleagues."

To learn more about Reixach's time at the Port one only needs to talk with representatives of the Port's many customers such as American Rice Inc., Dole Fresh Fruit Company, Chiquita Brands Inc. and Turbana Corp, the last two of which began their relationship with the Port during Reixach's tenure.

Mr. Speaker, Port Freeport now ranks 12th among all U.S. ports in international cargo. The Port has added new berths and continues to grow. A cool storage facility has been built and is set for expansion. The harbor channel was deepened to 45 feet with efforts now moving forward in this Congress toward approval of a 60-foot depth, a project I have been pleased to support. Public dock activity at the Port has burgeoned; so, too, has that at berths of such firms as Teppco/Seaway, ConocoPhillips and The Dow Chemical Co. This has all happened during Reixach's time as Executive Director of the Port.

While enrolled at the University of New Orleans Mr. Reixach began working as a clerk in the New Orleans office of Greek-owned Hellenic Lines Ltd. By the time Hellenic ceased operations in 1983, Reixach had worked his way up to a vice presidency in the line's Houston office. Immediately prior to coming to Port Freeport, he was general manager in the Houston office of Dutch shipping company F.A. Voight Inc.

Reixach initially was hired to serve as assistant general manager at Freeport. Two years later, Reixach was promoted to the new position of executive director, the job he still holds.

Mr. Speaker, Pete Reixach, 62, lives in Lake Jackson with his wife, Susie. I wish the two of them much happiness and continued success as Pete approaches 20 years with Port Freeport.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENTS OF FOUR OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special recognition to the students of Four Oaks Middle School, in North Carolina's Second District. These students put together 532 packages for the Tsunami victims as part of a Beta Club Relief Fund service project. When I met with the students in January, they told me at the time that their goal was to complete 300 packages. I challenged them to complete 500 packages, one for each student in the school. They not only met my challenge, but they exceeded it by completing 532 packages, each with a hand towel, soap, a washcloth, a toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb, six adhesive bandage, and a nail file.

The selflessness of the students at Four Oaks Middle School should make all of us proud. They came up with their own initiative, made all the plans and collected the packages by themselves. This project is an indication that they recognize that they are a part of the world. They worked to help relieve the suffering of boys and girls halfway around the world that they don't know and won't ever see. This is what America is truly all about.

I also would like to recognize the teachers and administrators at Four Oaks Middle School. They are a shining example of the role teachers and administrators play in teaching values to the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the boys and girls of Four Oaks Middle School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, during debate on July 11 and 12, 2005 I was unavoidably detained due to an illness, and unable to make the votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted the following: rollcall No. 363 "yes"; rollcall No. 364 "yes"; rollcall No. 365 "no"; rollcall No. 366 "no"; rollcall No. 367 "no"; rollcall No. 368 "yes"; rollcall No. 369 "no"; rollcall No. 370 "no"; rollcall No. 371 "no" and rollcall No. 372 "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

On July 11, 2005—rollcall vote 363, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, As Amended, H. Con. Res. 168, condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 364, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 333, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan, I would have voted "yes."

On July 12, 2005—rollcall vote 365, on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 351, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 366, on Agreeing to the Resolution H. Res. 351, the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 739, H.R. 740, H.R. 741, and H.R. 742, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 367, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 352, providing that the House of Representatives will focus on removing barriers to competitiveness of the United States economy, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 368, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 343, commending the State of Kuwait for granting women certain important political rights, I

would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 369, on Passage of H.R. 739, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Business Day in Court Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 370, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act, I would have voted "yes"; rollcall vote 371, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Independent Review of OSHA Citations Act, I would have voted "yes" and rollcall vote 372, on Passage of H.R. 740, the Occupational Safety and Health Small Employer Access to Justice Act of 2005, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, July 11, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives considered two bills under suspension of the rules: H. Con. Res. 168—Condemning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the abductions and continued captivity of citizens of the Republic of Korea and Japan as acts of terrorism and gross violations of human rights; and H. Res. 333—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to travel to Washington, DC on Monday because the Jackson-Evers International Airport in Jackson, Mississippi, from which I usually travel to DC, was closed due to the recent landfall of Hurricane Dennis. However, had I been present, I would have voted "yes" in favor of both resolutions.

HONORING SPC CHRISTOPHER LEE HOSKINS

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the service and sacrifice of a brave young soldier from my district, SPC Christopher Lee Hoskins, who gave his life in the cause of freedom and democracy in Iraq. I also pay tribute to SPC Hoskins' family, who raised this fine young man in an environment of loving care and who supported his decision to serve his country in uniform in Iraq.

On June 21, Army SPC Christopher Hoskins, of Killingly, Connecticut, was killed in Ramadi, Iraq, after his unit came under small arms fire west of Baghdad. The death of SPC Hoskins, who was a member of the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, marked the 25th death of a Connecticut soldier in the war in Afghanistan and the Middle East.

SPC Hoskins was 21 years old. He, along with so many other fine young men and women from across our Nation, was serving America and the cause of freedom by fighting terrorism and helping to bring stability to a part of the world that for far too long has known mainly violence and misery.

SPC Hoskins graduated from Killingly High School in 2001. He enlisted in the Army in

2003. He had recently re-enlisted for another four years.

In many ways, SPC Hoskins was typical of most American youths. His friends recalled that he was generous and polite; he enjoyed listening to Metallica; he played chess and was a member of his high school wrestling team; he enjoyed painting and he worked the cameras at school plays.

And in many ways he was typical of the men and women who preceded him as members of our Nation's armed forces. This was a young man who wanted to serve a cause larger than himself.

This was a young man who did not have to place himself in harm's way but volunteered to do so in service to our Nation, our people and the way of life that we treasure. America is a better place because of young men like Army SPC Christopher Hoskins.

We cannot repay the debt we owe Christopher Hoskins; we can only honor him and his family. And we do.

Memorial Day was set aside as the day when Americans remember those who left their homes, families and jobs to defend our Nation—and never returned. But our men and women in uniform defend freedom every day, and every day there are those who pay the ultimate price for their selflessness. It would be highly appropriate if we took a moment out of every day to honor and remember the men and women who stand between America and those who would do her harm.

Today, July 14, 2005 SPC Hoskins was interred at Arlington National Cemetery overlooking Washington, D.C. with full military honors. He will posthumously receive a Purple Heart for his wounds and a Bronze Star for his valor. SPC Hoskins will rest in good company, among others who answered the call to duty, honor and country.

We pray that the service and sacrifice of SPC Hoskins will remind us of the high cost which is paid by those who love our freedom, who believe in our democracy and who give their best to defend the best Nation on Earth. May God rest his soul.

FREEDOM FOR ALEJANDRO GONZÁLEZ RAGA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Alejandro González Raga, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. González Raga is an independent journalist and a contributor to the Camagüey Press Agency. As an independent journalist in a totalitarian Cuba, Mr. González Raga's truthful articles have helped the world to learn the facts about the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his belief in factual reporting, Mr. González Raga relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression. I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression.

In March, 2003, Mr. González Raga was arrested as part of the dictatorship's heinous

crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists. According to Reporters Without Borders, as part of his sham trial, Mr. González Raga was accused of "cooperating with the foreign press," and of "systematically endangering territorial integrity" by writing reports on subjects considered "very sensitive" by the dictatorship such as "shortages due to the economic crisis, relations with other countries, TV programs, the education budget." He was sentenced to 14 years in Castro's dungeons for these "crimes."

Let me be very clear, Mr. González Raga is currently languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag for his truthful articles. The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." The State Department also reports that police and prison officials beat, neglect, isolate, and deny medical treatment to detainees and prisoners. It is a crime of the highest order that people are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for reporting the facts.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, independent journalists who write the truth about totalitarian regimes are systematically tortured. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Alejandro González Raga and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

MONMOUTH COUNTY'S BEN
DANSKIN CELEBRATES 80TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best and warmest wishes to a good friend and constituent, Mr. Benjamin H. Danskin, who today celebrates his 80th birthday.

Ben Danskin has been a key figure in government service, public advocacy and business development in Monmouth County, New Jersey for more than 50 years. He is respected, admired and well-liked by colleagues, associates and former political rivals. His family and close friends are inspired by his wit, good nature, character, charisma and kindness.

Born and raised in Spring Lake, New Jersey, Ben and his older brother, Clyde, learned the importance of public service through their father's example. Their father, Benjamin S. Danskin, was a realtor with Horatio Clayton Real Estate and Insurance, which he later bought and named the Danskin Agency. Successful in business, Benjamin S. Danskin also succeeded in the public arena. He served as the Secretary of the State Division of Tax Appeals, President of the New Jersey Association of Tax Commissioners, and Deputy Director of Taxation, assisting in the creation of the state tax equalization program. Government service would become a family trait.

In September 1943, young Ben Danskin joined the Army as a Lieutenant and began training to become a B-25 bomber pilot. When World War II ended, Ben enrolled in the Dickinson College to pursue a degree in political

science. He graduated in 1949 and moved back to Wall Township with his wife, Betty Joan Slockbower, who had been his high school sweetheart. In April of this year, Ben and Joan celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary—and they are the proud parents of three loving daughters: Cathy, Nancy, and Barbara.

Upon his return from the war, Ben immediately invested himself in his community and embarked upon a life-long commitment to distinguished public service. He joined his father at the Danskin Agency and was elected to the Wall Township Committee. At the age of 27, Ben was appointed as the Mayor of Wall Township, the youngest mayor in township history. In 1963, Ben Danskin was elected as a Monmouth County Freeholder and he served as such until 1969 when he was elected to a five-year term as the Monmouth County Clerk. He was appointed to his first three-year term as Monmouth County Treasurer in 1974. He was reappointed in 1977, replaced by a Democratic freeholder majority in 1980, but reappointed to the treasurer's post in 1983, once the GOP regained the majority on the board. Just last December, 2004, Ben Danskin stepped down from the position of Monmouth County Treasurer after 21 years of consecutive service.

From 1969 to 1982, Ben Danskin led the Monmouth County Republican Committee as its Chairman. He has remained influential in the party throughout his illustrious career. A genuine leader, Ben Danskin has helped launch critical county initiatives and shape public policy through thoughtful, substantive persuasion. He continues to be sought out for his wise counsel and advice.

Though he would not like it discussed, there are lasting tributes to Ben Danskin's hard work and public service. He is credited with a leading role in the establishment of Brookdale Community College, the creation of the Monmouth County Correctional Institution, and the expansion of the Monmouth County park system, just to name a few. Ten of thousands of Monmouth residents continue to benefit from the programs Ben Danskin helped conceive and nurture during his years of public service.

On the business side, Ben counts his co-founding of Allaire Community Bank in 1996 as one of his most successful endeavors. The bank thrived and was recently bought out by Central Jersey Bank.

Ben Danskin's public career is admirable not only for its demonstration of commitment and longevity but more so for the impact he has had on so many positive initiatives for the people of Monmouth County. Happy 80th Birthday, Ben Danskin. On behalf of our mutual friends and constituents, I offer our deepest gratitude for your years of dedicated service and commitment to the public good.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to the Republic of Cape Verde. July 5, 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of this island nation's independence

from Portugal and it will be celebrated by Cape Verdeans worldwide.

After an almost 20-year struggle for improved economic, social and political conditions, on July 5, 1975, under the leadership of revolutionary Amílcar Cabral, the Republic of Cape Verde emerged a country with strong economic aspirations and a commitment to the continuance of a fair and equitable society.

In 1991, the Republic of Cape Verde transitioned from a single political party to a multi-party system with no conflicts or civil unrest.

Located approximately 385 miles off the West African coast, this 10 island archipelago has developed into a key center for regional and international investment. The country's monetary and fiscal policies have made this young nation a showcase for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The United States, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation, recently signed a historic 5-year Compact in excess of \$110 million with the Republic of Cape Verde to support the country's goal of poverty reduction and economic growth. This agreement is a testament to Cape Verde's strong commitment to transparency and good governance, and to putting in place a policy framework that uses aid effectively.

The official language of the Republic of Cape Verde is Portuguese, but the population speaks a crioulo dialect. The rich crioulo musical and poetic tradition is filled with old fashioned stories of love, exotic journeys and family.

In the mid-19th century, Cape Verdeans were renowned for being great seafaring people, skilled in whaling and craftsmanship in the repair of ships. As a result, many Cape Verdeans settled in different parts of the world.

It is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the Republic of Cape Verde on this occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE PHILADELPHIA COALITION FOR ITS AP- PROACH TO ERADICATING RAC- ISM AND INTOLERANCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution to commend the Philadelphia Coalition for its principled, open, and integrated approach to eradicating racism and intolerance, and for its determination to confront the past and work toward the future.

On June 21, 1964, three brave, upright, and honorable men—James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner—all members of a coalition of civil rights organizations known as the Council of Federated Organizations, drove to Neshoba County, Mississippi to investigate the racially motivated June 16, 1964 burning of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Longdale, Mississippi and the assault on its members. After meeting with members of the Mount Zion congregation, the three civil rights workers were pulled over by a sheriff's deputy in Philadelphia, Mississippi. They were de-

tained on suspicion of burning the same Mount Zion church—a church that, according to later testimony, was burned by Ku Klux Klansmen specifically to lure Mr. Chaney and Mr. Schwerner to Neshoba County. This false charge was clearly fabricated and represented a deliberate attempt to intimidate the young advocates. Unfortunately, it was only the beginning.

What transpired next would change the county, State, and Nation itself. At 10:30 p.m. that night, the men were released and ordered to leave town. However, on the road back to Meridian, Mississippi, Mr. Chaney, Mr. Goodman, and Mr. Schwerner were tailed and subsequently overtaken by a mob of white men. The throng, comprised of law enforcement officials and Ku Klux Klansmen, pulled the three men from their car, drove them to an empty gravel road, and brutally murdered them.

This unconscionable, unprovoked, and vicious attack was coordinated by Edgar Ray Killen, an active member of the Ku Klux Klan. Yet Mr. Killen was not initially brought to justice. He was tried in 1967 for the murders he coordinated, but was not found guilty because one jury member refused to convict a preacher. The truth is, however, that an all-white jury was never going to convict a white man of a racial crime in Philadelphia in 1964, particularly one involving the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan was revered, and even during the 2005 trial, former Philadelphia mayor Harlan Majure stated that the Ku Klux Klan was a "peaceful organization" that did much good for Mississippi.

For 41 years, after orchestrating the murder of these three men, Mr. Killen walked the streets of Mississippi, free from prosecution and legal repercussions. For 41 years, the families of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner lived in an America that had not afforded them justice. For 41 years, these murders served as a poignant reminder that without action, racism and prejudice will persist, even in this great country.

In March 2005, however, all that began to change, as a task force of city, county, and tribal leaders joined together to form the Philadelphia Coalition. The Coalition was charged with commemorating the lives of the three slain young men. But the Philadelphia Coalition did not merely coordinate a public commemoration, they took a stand for justice, integration, and equality. Demonstrating that it is never too late for justice to be served, the Coalition successfully lobbied for Mr. Killen to be re-tried for the murders he orchestrated. On June 21, 2005, 41 years to the day after his heinous crime and as a direct result of the efforts of the Philadelphia Coalition, Edgar Ray Killen was convicted on three counts of manslaughter.

The real success of the Philadelphia Coalition, however, was not the legal battle. Their true achievement was to strike at the heart of the bigotry and intolerance that Mr. Killen and the Ku Klux Klan represent. Mr. Speaker, the Philadelphia Coalition, significantly, is a multi-racial task force. The Coalition actively integrated black, white, and Choctaw Indian men and women into its ranks. This organizational model of ethnic understanding and racial tolerance, more so than their legal triumph, can and must serve as a model and example for individuals and organizations not only in Mississippi, but throughout the United States. It is imperative that today we learn from their example and that we commend their actions.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

THE HOMELESS VETERANS RE-INTEGRATION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce H.R. 3279, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act of 2005. I am especially pleased that the Ranking Member of the Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, Ms. HERSETH, as well as Ms. BROWN-WAITE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BAKER, and Ms. BERKLEY join me as original cosponsors.

H.R. 3279 would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, or HVRP, through 2009, currently the authority for this program expires at the end of fiscal year 2006. The legislation would also retain the authority to appropriate \$50,000,000 to HVRP for each fiscal year.

HVRP, administered by the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, is designed to take the men and women who are probably the most difficult population of veterans to serve off the streets and return them as productive contributors to society. It is a tall order and one that presents unique challenges to both the government and those who deliver services to homeless veterans. It is a well known fact that a very high percentage of this Nation's homeless have mental health and substance abuse issues. Unfortunately, homeless veterans are not immune to those concerns. In fact, some are so debilitated that they will never fully return to society outside a very structured environment.

HVRP funds are awarded on a competitive basis to eligible applicants such as: State and local Workforce Investment Boards, public agencies, for-profit/commercial entities, and non-profit organizations, including faith based and community based organizations. Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assist homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities. The program focuses on employment and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Job placement, training, and development, career counseling, and resume preparation, are among the services that are provided. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, or permanent housing, referral to medical or substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

The emphasis on helping homeless veterans get and retain jobs is enhanced through coordination with various veterans' services programs and organizations such as the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives, veteran service organizations, and the

Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, and Health and Human Services.

Today, VA estimates the number of homeless veterans to be about 185,000. This is a far too large of a number, in my mind, one homeless veteran is one too many. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this important legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FISHING QUOTA STANDARDS ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues, Representatives SIMMONS and DELAHUNT, to introduce the Fishing Quota Standards Act of 2005. This bipartisan bill would amend the fishing quota programs section of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to ensure that national standards are in place during the development and implementation of individual fishing quota systems.

Poorly designed and regulated quota systems often degrade fishing communities, create monopolies, and lead to overexploitation of fishery resources. If individual fishing quotas are to be an effective management tool, strong national standards must be in place to ensure a healthy future for small businesses in the fishing industry.

The intent of this legislation is to guarantee that any fishery quota established by a regional management council fairly allocates the resource among fishermen of all gear types, prevents excessive industry consolidation and protects the sustainability of the fishery.

The bill retains current law stating that individual fishing quotas are not compensable property rights and are revocable. This principle is strengthened by limiting fishing quota systems and shares to a period not to exceed 7 years, after which time they will be renewed if they are meeting defined criteria.

Well designed Individual Fishing Quota systems can increase seafood quality and value, foster resource conservation, and promote safety-at-sea, but Individual Fishing Quota systems, in and of themselves, do not guarantee that a fishery will be sustainably managed or result in appropriate socio-economic benefits. It is my hope that this bill will give the entire fishing industry a voice in the debate over the future of their industry.

HONORING MAC HARRIS OF BEVERLY HILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mac Harris of Beverly Hills, Florida.

Mac Harris, a diligent, respected man in our community and at the power plant, has relinquished his post as spokesperson for the Crystal River nuclear power plant.

Mr. Harris life-long journey has taken many paths including a writer, a professor, and a re-

porter. Along that journey, he has touched the lives of many readers, students, and co-workers. Despite his varying role, his honesty and sincerity remained constant.

Mr. Harris and his wife have chosen to retire in Citrus County, Florida, where they remain active members of the civic and cultural community. In his retirement, Mr. Harris will continue to impact the community through various engagements including writing and directing plays for the art league.

In his capacity as an employee at the power plant, Mr. Harris's commitment to communication with the community is outstanding. Mr. Harris was readily accessible, day and night, throughout the terrible 2004 hurricane season when thousands lost power. He goes out of the way to answer questions and concerns from residents and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Speaker, honorable men like Mac Harris should be congratulated for their service. It is truly a privilege to honor Mac Harris for his lifetime of achievement and contribution.

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARGARET VOLZ THOMPSON

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional federal civil servant with the Department of the Army, Mrs. Margaret Volz Thompson, upon her retirement after more than 26 years of distinguished civilian service. Throughout her career, she has been a dedicated worker, portraying Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions which the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Margaret on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize her many accomplishments. I commend her superb service to the United States Army and this great Nation.

Mrs. Thompson is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. August Volz, Sr. She graduated from Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana, with a degree in Business Administration. Her first civilian assignment was the Finance and Accounting Office, 7th Infantry Division in Fort Ord, California in 1979. The Thompsons, as a military family, were then transferred to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, where Mrs. Thompson held various positions on the Garrison Staff and served as Children's Advocate for the Fort Sheridan Military Community. In 1983, Mrs. Thompson was selected to be a Department Army Comptroller Intern. She completed her training with the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command and then joined the professional staff as an analyst. In 1989, she began work on the staff of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army. She remained there until 2000 when she became the Deputy Executive to the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Her capstone assignment was as Deputy Chief of the Programs Division, Legislative Liaison, where she established and maintained an excellent rapport with professional staff members of the

Senate and House Armed Services Committees on issues relating to areas of importance to the Army.

Throughout these assignments, Mrs. Thompson marshaled information sources and resources on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. The timely and professional support delivered by Mrs. Thompson was invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of these important issues.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the United States of America, I thank Margaret, her husband, George (LTC, USA, Ret.) and her entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout her honorable federal civil service tenure. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and extremely successful career.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN R. ANGEVINE, GARRISON COMMANDER, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON FORT LEE, VIRGINIA, FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel John R. Angevine, Garrison Commander United States Army Garrison Fort Lee, Virginia for his loyal service to the United States and Virginia's Fourth District.

Colonel Angevine's dedication and loyalty to the advancement of our district and the Nation as a whole is to be highly commended.

Colonel Angevine's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession through a number of command and staff positions. His assignments have included Red River Army Depot, Texarkana, Texas; the 1st Infantry Division (Forward), Coppingen, Germany; the 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum, New York; the Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Washington, DC; the United Nations Operations Somalia, Mogadishu, Somalia; the Strategic Logistics Agency, Washington, DC; 25th Infantry Division (light) at Ft. Lewis, Washington; Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Washington, DC; and the Center for Strategic Leadership, Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Among his many duties, he has served as Battalion Commander, 25th Forward Support Battalion, Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion S-3, 710th Maintenance Battalion, 10th Mountain Division (Light); Company Commander, 1st Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division (F); Quartermaster Assignments Officer; Logistics Staff Officer, Chief Logistics Officer UN Mission, Somalia; and as a Force Development Systems Integrator. His previous assignment was Chief, Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia. His military education is extensive and includes the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and the Quartermaster Officer Basic and Advanced Courses. Colonel Angevine holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts at Am-

herst and a Masters of Science degree in Business Administration from Boston University.

Colonel Angevine's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (7th Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster), United Nations Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Colonel Angevine has shown tremendous commitment and devotion to his country and the United States Army. Today we recognize him for his unwavering patriotism and dedication to both his profession and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Colonel John R. Angevine.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL WEEK-END OF PRAYER AND REFLECTION FOR DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2005

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a National Weekend of Prayer and Reflection for Darfur, Sudan and in support of H. Res. 333.

Last July, Congress passed legislation recognizing the Darfur genocide. In September 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that genocide had been committed in Darfur. And shortly following, President George W. Bush told the United Nations General Assembly that "the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide."

It has been estimated that perhaps as many as 400,000 people have died from violence, hunger and disease since conflict began in Darfur in 2003, and that more than 2 million people have lost their homes and are now living in refugee camps in Darfur and Chad.

Congress has approved hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid and other assistance for Darfur. The United States remains the largest contributor of relief aid to Sudan, providing logistical support for African Union troops in Darfur and taking the lead in efforts to resolve Sudan's long-running north-south civil war.

I recently attended a Sudanese celebration in Rochester, Minnesota, celebrating the signing of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Accord, signed on January 9, 2005 in Nairobi. The Sudanese recognize the cost of freedom and will continue to strive for peace in the Darfur region.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this important legislation and cause.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "GROWING REAL OWNERSHIP FOR WORKERS ACT OF 2005"

HON. JIM MCCRERY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Representatives SHAW, JOHNSON, RYAN, SHADEGG, a number of my Ways and Means and other colleagues to introduce the Growing Real Ownership for Workers (GROW) Act of 2005.

The creation of GROW accounts is a simple, common-sense, first step in protecting Social Security for the next generation of retirees and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, we have been listening to the American people, and this bill is a result of what we have heard: that spending Social Security funds on other programs is wrong and must be stopped. Right now, Social Security is taking in more money than it needs to pay benefits. We should ensure those surplus funds are spent on Social Security.

With individual GROW accounts, working Americans younger than age 55 at the start of this year will be able to put their names on their share of the overpayments to the Social Security Trust Funds.

The accounts will be invested in a fund of guaranteed, safe, marketable Treasury securities. They will be real assets that Americans will own. They will be inheritable, too.

GROW accounts would be voluntary; people can opt out if they want to.

Our GROW plan is forward-looking—after a prudent transition, GROW account owners would have the opportunity to invest in other types of securities, if they want to. The board that administers the accounts will submit a plan to Congress allowing for diversification into other assets. The plan would go into effect unless Congress enacts a joint resolution of disapproval.

Upon retirement, account balances will be used to help pay workers' Social Security benefits, and account balances are inheritable.

The bill does not impose investment risk on workers and does not harm the Social Security Trust Funds. It does protect the integrity of the Social Security program by ensuring that Social Security taxes are only used for Social Security.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to join me in supporting this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MISSOURI LEGISLATOR

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Missouri congressional delegation, I would like to join with my colleagues, Representatives TODD AKIN, ROY BLUNT, RUSS CARNAHAN, EMANUEL CLEAVER, JO ANN EMERSON, SAM GRAVES, KENNY HULSHOF and IKE SKELTON in paying tribute to the late Honorable Larry Gene Taylor who passed away at the age of 51 on Wednesday, July 6, 2005, after a hard fought battle with cancer.

It is with great sadness that I stand before you today to commemorate the life of one of this nation's outstanding public servants. Senator Larry Gene Taylor served in both the Missouri House and Senate during his career. He was a man filled with optimism and vision and he was a legislator who was truly dedicated to the people of Missouri.

Senator Taylor was born on August 7, 1953, in Carthage, Missouri. He was educated in the Sarcoux public schools and went on to attend Missouri Southern University in Joplin, Missouri. Mr. Taylor was a driven man who started his career in politics working in State Treasurer Wendell Bailey's office as his Director of Public Affairs. He was later elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. As a State Representative he served as the Vice Chairman on the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Committee and as a majority member of the House Committee on Appropriations for Transportation and Economic Development and the House Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development.

In 2004 he was elected to the State Senate where he was on several committees such as Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health, Ways and Means and Transportation. Senator Taylor worked vehemently to improve Missouri's infrastructure and played a key role in establishing a long term funding solution that greatly improved Missouri's education budget formula.

Larry Gene Taylor was a public servant by blood. He inherited his love for politics from his father, the late U.S. Representative, Gene Taylor of Missouri's 7th Congressional District. Congressman Taylor was also a native Missourian who began his career in Missouri politics when he was elected mayor of Sarcoux, Missouri in 1954. He spent the next 35 years of his life as a public servant holding numerous positions including that of a United States Congressman. Congressman Taylor retired from politics in 1989 and later passed away in 1998. Together this father and son team has left a great political legacy in the state of Missouri.

In a time when politics is dividing so many, Senator Taylor was known as one who united. He was capable of working with anyone regardless of their political ideology or party affiliation. He possessed the true spirit of bipartisanship. Senator Taylor was never one to play party politics; he was devoted to the people of Missouri. The compassion and understanding that he showed to them will always be remembered through his work and the genuine heart-felt relationships that he developed.

In spite of his bout with cancer, Senator Taylor's perseverance would not allow him to give up. In fact, many were astounded and moved by how he managed to work right through the unimaginable pain and suffering that he must have experienced. His love for life is truly an inspiration to all who had the opportunity to know him. Mr. Speaker, Senator Taylor was a source of great pride not just for Missourians but for Americans everywhere. Not only have I had the honor of working with Senator Larry Gene Taylor, I have had the privilege of calling him my friend.

IN HONOR OF MAJOR GENERAL
RICHARD A. FREYTAG, USAF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Delawarean of great character, courage, and patriotism, who passed away on July 4, 2005 at the age of 71. Major General Richard A. Freytag, USAF (Ret.), was born on October 26, 1933, marking the beginning of a lifetime of distinguished service to his family, community, and country.

General Freytag's 38 years of service with the United States Air Force began with his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1956. Although he completed active duty in 1959, General Freytag's strong sense of duty compelled him to continue as an Air Force Reserve officer throughout his civilian career, holding positions at the Pentagon and the National Defense University in Washington. In 2000, already a decorated veteran, General Freytag was awarded the Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest tribute awarded to a civilian by the Department of Defense.

In his civilian life, General Freytag understood the importance of education, working tirelessly to earn graduate degrees from both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This ambition fueled a successful career with Citicorp Inc., eventually bringing General Freytag to New Castle, Delaware in 1984 to become President and C.E.O. of the Citicorp Banking Corporation.

Despite his substantial time commitments, General Freytag was an active member in his local community. For decades, he was involved with numerous Air Force charities. Following his retirement from Citicorp in 1996, he volunteered with several organizations in Delaware, including the Delaware Bankers Association and the Medical Center of Delaware. A devoted family man; he is survived by his wife Pamela, children Richard and Bliss, and grandchildren Henley and Coryell.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to remember General Freytag as a man of character, courage, and compassion, who I was proud to call my friend. I join with my colleagues in celebrating the life lived by this great American, and offer my sincerest sympathy to his family and friends throughout Delaware and the United States.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, during my life I've been called a lot of things from a microbiologist, to a mother of three and a grandmother of 7, to a Member of Congress, but today I seem to have earned a new title, one I never expected to have—I am now a walking chemical plant.

Recently, I was a surrogate blood donor for a study conducted by the Environmental Working Group and Commonweal. I partici-

pated in this important study to find out what toxic substances I in particular, and Americans in general, have been exposed to throughout our lives.

My stunning test results showed literally hundreds of chemicals pumping through my vital organs everyday. These chemicals include PCBs that were banned decades ago, as well as chemicals like Teflon that are currently under Federal investigation. Apparently, my body is home to toxic chemicals used to make insecticides, electrical cables, fluorescent lamps and even automobile engine oil, despite the fact that I tasked my husband with handling the car oil years ago.

I also have auto exhaust fumes, flame retardant chemicals, and in all, some 271 harmful substances coursing through my veins. That's hardly the picture of health I had hoped for, but I've been living in an industrial society for over 70 years.

While I was born in a coal mining mountains of Kentucky, I grew up in a bucolic area that did not have industrial pollution. So I have assumed my exposure to environmental chemicals occurred during adulthood. But for the ten newborn babies that also were part in this study, they were born polluted. On average each one had some 200 chemicals in their blood, before they ever touched a blanket, a bassinet, a car seat, or even took their first breath.

If ever this country had a wake-up call, it's the blood test results of these newborns. If ever we had proof that our nation's pollution laws aren't working, it's reading the list of industrial chemicals in the bodies of babies who have not yet lived outside the womb. Obviously, banning chemicals after they have entered the environment is not enough.

That we have children coming into this world already polluted, at the same time we don't know what the effects of that pollution will be on their mental and physical development, is both bad policy and immorally wrong. We must test chemicals before they go onto the market, not after they get into our bloodstreams.

Over the last 30 years, the U.S. has seen a steep rise in the occurrence of childhood cancers, testicular cancer, juvenile diabetes, attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, thyroid disorders, cognitive impairment, and autoimmune disorders. Autism cases alone rose 210 percent between 1987 and 1998.

And we ask ourselves, why? What's happening? Is there a connection with the more than 75,000 new chemicals that have been introduced into our environment since the 1950s?

Amazingly, there is still a lack of data on the potential neuro-developmental effects on women, on fetuses, and on how long-term, low-dose exposure to environmental pollutants impacts children at critical stages of development.

For 5 years, I have called on Congress to enact legislation that would allow NIH to research the impact that these chemical pollutants have on women and children. Now, once again, I am introducing the Environmental Health Research Act. Specifically, this bill does two things. First, it authorizes the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to develop six multidisciplinary research centers to investigate the association

and impact of environmental factors on women's health and their offspring. It also authorizes the Director of this institute, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to establish a comprehensive program to conduct research on the impact of hormone disrupting chemicals affecting maternal and child health.

We need to research the impact of these chemical pollutants now. Only then will we have the information we need both to detoxify and also to prevent developmental disabilities and other environmentally related diseases in future generations.

Let's pass this legislation. Let's clean up our environment. Let's clean up our bodies, but most importantly, let's not permit our babies of the future to be polluted before they are even born.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was not in Washington, DC during the week of June 27–July 1, 2005 due to a family obligation. My father had bypass heart surgery and I was with him and our family in Arkansas during that time. Below are the recorded votes that were taken in my absence and how I would have voted had I been present.

On Monday, June 27, 2005—rollcall No. 322, “yea”; and rollcall No. 323, “yea.”

On Tuesday, June 28, 2005—rollcall No. 324, “yea”; rollcall No. 325, “nay”; rollcall No. 326, “nay”; rollcall No. 327, “nay”; rollcall No. 328, “nay”; rollcall No. 329, “yea”; rollcall No. 330, “yea”; rollcall No. 331, “yea”; rollcall No. 332, “yea”; rollcall No. 333, “yea”; rollcall No. 334, “nay” and rollcall No. 335, “yea.”

On Wednesday, June 29, 2005—rollcall No. 336, “yea”; rollcall No. 337, “nay”; rollcall No. 338, “yea”; rollcall No. 339, “yea”; rollcall No. 340, “yea”; rollcall No. 341, “nay”; rollcall No. 342, “yea”; rollcall No. 343, “yea” and rollcall No. 344, “yea.”

On Thursday, June 30, 2005—rollcall No. 345, “yea”; rollcall No. 346, “yea”; rollcall No. 347, “yea”; rollcall No. 348, “yea”; rollcall No. 349, “yea”; rollcall No. 350, “yea”; rollcall No. 351, “yea”; rollcall No. 352, “nay”; rollcall No. 353, “yea”; rollcall No. 354, “yea”; rollcall No. 355, “yea”; rollcall No. 356, “yea”; rollcall No. 357, “yea”; rollcall No. 358, “yea”; rollcall No. 359, “nay”; rollcall No. 360, “yea”; rollcall No. 361, “yea” and rollcall No. 362, “yea.”

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF R&B SINGER LUTHER VANDROSS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary R&B singer, humanitarian, and community activist, Mr. Luther Vandross, who died on Friday July 1st after health problems resulting from a stroke in 2003. Mr. Vandross was a Grammy

award winning artist whose deep, lush voice on such hits as Here and Now and Any Love sold more than 25 million albums.

Arguably the most celebrated R&B balladeer of his generation, his music provided the romantic backdrop for millions of couples worldwide. In an era of sexually charged and explicit lyrics, Mr. Vandross spoke to love and romance with heartfelt emotions.

Even without gaining the crossover success which he sought, Mr. Vandross sold over 25 million records. He won eight Grammy Awards and many other accolades including the American Music Award, Soul Train, BET, and NAACP Image awards. He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980's and broke through to even wider commercial success in 2003 with his last album, Dance With My Father, which earned four Grammy Awards and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther Ronzoni Vandross was born in 1951 into a New York City family steeped in the musical traditions of gospel and soul. He was the youngest of four children, reared by a single mother after the death of his father when Luther was still a boy. He began his career writing and performing jingles for television commercials. But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for the British artist David Bowie, who later hired him to work on vocal arrangements for the album Young Americans.

After breaking into the music business Luther worked for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand as a highly sought-after backup vocalist and arranger. His 1981 debut album, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980's, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love.

Luther Vandross had a career that most singers only dream about and has served as a source of inspiration for people throughout the world. Especially among his musical peers, writing songs for musical icons such as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick.

He was a native New Yorker and before his funeral services on Friday, July 8th, a hearse carrying the singer's remains took him for one last tour of Harlem, pausing outside the Apollo Theater before heading west to the church. Before achieving stardom, Vandross had twice finished second at Harlem's famed Apollo theater and both the city and theater always maintained a special place in his heart.

Luther Vandross' accomplishments in life speak to his character and personality. He was a loving individual known for his kindness and generosity as well as his musical accomplishments.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, his loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, several nieces and nephews and millions of loyal fans.

OFFICIAL OBITUARY SUBMITTED FROM LABEL J RECORDS

Luther Ronzoni Vandross, the silky-voiced R&B crooner who spun romance into hits like “Here and Now” and “Any Love,” died on Friday, July 1st, 2005 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, NJ. He was 54.

With a smooth yet soulful delivery, the highly admired singer/songwriter/producer has sold in excess of 30 million records worldwide, winning eight Grammy Awards, nu-

merous Soul Train, BET, NAACP Image and American Music Awards.

He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980s and broke through to even wider commercial success in 1989 with the Best of Luther Vandross, the Best of Love, which included the new song “Here and Now,” his first Grammy winning hit which became a signature wedding song.

Born in New York City in 1951, Luther was the youngest of four children. In 1972, a song Vandross wrote, “Everybody Rejoice,” was included in the Broadway musical “The Wiz.” But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for David Bowie and created vocal arrangements for the hit album Young Americans.

Luther soon became a sought-after backup vocalist and arranger, working for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand, and he helped pay the bills as one of the most popular jingle singers of the time. His 1981 debut, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980s, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love. His last album, Dance With My Father received 4 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for the title song “Dance With My Father”) and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther was also a prolific writer and producer for such musical icons as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick thereby fulfilling a lifelong dream. “When history books are written, I’d like it to be said that I am one of the premiere singers of our time,” said Vandross in an interview with BET.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, legacy, and wonderful memories a loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, nine nieces as well as eight great nephews, three great nieces and a circle of close friends and colleagues, his musical family and millions of loyal, supportive fans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 14, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and rendered unable to vote on H. Res. 356, condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in London, England, on July 7, 2005. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yea.”

IN RECOGNITION OF DICK KURTENBACH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Dick Kurtenbach, the former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas and Western Missouri and tireless advocate for the constitutional rights of Americans. Mr. Kurtenbach retired on June 30th, 2005 after 20 years of distinguished service to

the ACLU and his community. For this reason, I rise today to honor and celebrate his life achievements.

Dick Kurtenbach's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union has been prolific for the Western Missouri and Kansas region as well as fruitful for the entire Nation. He oversaw notable litigation, such as *Cruzan v. Director of the Missouri Department of Health*, which was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990. The ruling was a victory, by recognizing that patients are entitled to the fulfillment of their end-of-life care wishes. More importantly, the case raised much needed public awareness towards the importance of living wills, medical proxies, and other means of documenting those wishes and was lauded as a success by supporters. However, Dick's unwavering commitment to the values of liberty didn't always make him friends. In 1989, while I served on the City Council, his office filed suit on behalf of the Missouri Knights of the Ku Klux Klan arguing that the Kansas City, Missouri City Council had violated the Klan's First Amendment rights by denying them access to rant on a public cable TV channel. I remember being interviewed with Dick on "The Today Show" in New York City. As we walked out of the NBC studios, it was obvious that he was painfully uncomfortable having appeared to side with a group like the Klan. All I could do was put an arm on his shoulder and say, "Hey, I understand what you're doing and why." It is a tough job but he has done it time and time again. Dick's steadfast refusal to compromise on something as precious as our civil liberties is representative of the purity and character of the American way.

Dick Kurtenbach had been the Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri ACLU since 1985 and was responsible for their original merger. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union from 1979 through 1985. He has worked on several Senate and Congressional campaigns, as well as for the Nebraska Democratic Party. Dick is a veteran of the United States Army, having served on active duty from 1967 to 1970, including 15 months of service in Southeast Asia. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Civil Rights Consortium, The Human Rights Project, and the Western Missouri Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Dick graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a Bachelors of Arts degree and is married to Joette Pelster.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Dick Kurtenbach, not only for his unwavering efforts to preserve the tenets of our Constitution, but also for his courage in defending the individual rights of citizens, no matter how unpopular or difficult. I urge my colleagues to please join me, in congratulating Dick on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri American Civil Liberties Union, and in celebrating his invaluable contributions and sacrifices to the cause of freedom.

H.R. 2745, THE HENRY J. HYDE
UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 2745, the Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005.

The United Nations is a critical multilateral organization that provides a vital and necessary forum for the U.S. to advance our Nation's foreign policy priorities as well as to improve and strengthen development, security and human rights around the globe. As an original founder and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the U.S. has an opportunity to shape the direction of future reforms and continue our important role of pursuing multilateral solution to the world's most challenging problems. Or, as this legislation appears intent upon achieving, the U.S. can withdraw support from the United Nations and watch from the sidelines as the world body withers, leaving our Nation isolated and at risk. The latter approach, I believe, would be a dangerous and foolish mistake.

For sixty years, the organizations and programs operating under the umbrella of the United Nations have been working to improve health, food security and human rights around the world; combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; encouraging and empowering the protection of rights for women, workers, ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities; and enhancing the security and upholding peace in areas devastated by conflict. The feeding, sheltering, and protection of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide, many of whom might not be alive today without such help, has also be a vital United Nations function. The sum of this work carried out by the United Nations, this very difficult work, has been a monumental achievement, much of it funded by the generosity of the American tax payer, that has improved the lives of billions of people and made our world safer, healthier, more peaceful and more just.

This legislation before the House, H.R. 2745, is deeply flawed. It would mandate drastic cuts to the U.S. funding obligation to the United Nations, unless the U.S. Secretary of State can certify compliance with 39 far-reaching, and detailed, reforms. Unfortunately, many of these reforms apply to related agencies that are out of the management authority of the United Nations Secretariat. In addition, this bill would put ongoing peacekeeping missions, and U.S. involvement in future missions integral to our national security, in jeopardy.

Reforms are needed at the United Nations. The debate on the floor clearly reflects that Democrats and Republicans agree on this fact. However, the U.S. has an opportunity, and I would say a responsibility, to play a positive and constructive role in reforming the United Nations, in a way that promotes greater transparency, more effective decision making, greater emphasis on oversight of the bureaucracy and a clear standard of accountability among member states for their conduct with relations to human rights.

The Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act fails to provide the resources, the time,

and the flexibility to allow reform to be carried out correctly, as needed to sustain this great organization. This legislation blatantly puts politics before peace keeping and threatens to undermine the important leadership of the U.S. in the eyes of the international community.

The State Department strongly objects to key provisions of this bill including the key principle of linking of U.S. dues to United Nations reforms. Rather than starve the United Nations by unilaterally cutting support, I support the rational and reasonable alternative legislation, the bipartisan Lantos-Shays alternative to H.R. 2745, that would eliminate the mandate for funding cuts and empower the Secretary of State to withhold funds if suggested reforms are not met. This substitute appropriate encourages the U.S. to work with other nations to achieve real and lasting United Nations reform.

MR. JACK THOMAS' ARTICLE
FROM THE BOSTON GLOBE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the June 20, 2005, Boston Globe about two legendary figures in Massachusetts politics. "The Loner in Winter," by Jack Thomas, gives us an update on the former mayor of Boston, Kevin White, and former State treasurer Bob Crane. White and Crane came out of the same political environment that produced larger-than-life personalities like Tip O'Neill, Joe Moakley and Silvio Conte. As the article shows, Bob Crane and Kevin White have developed a great friendship in politics that has lasted over 40 years.

Kevin White was the mayor of Boston for 16 years, from 1967 to 1983, and his friend Bob Crane served as State treasurer for 26 years. They became friends in the 1960s while campaigning together in western Massachusetts and have been close ever since. During his tenure in Boston, Kevin White was simply the best mayor in America. When I became mayor of Springfield, I looked to Kevin for advice and guidance, and he always steered me in the right direction. For young mayors seeking to make their mark, Kevin White was the role model to which we all aspired. He helped make Boston the great city it is today.

Mayor White is now suffering from Alzheimer's, but he still commands the room, with his remarkable presence and sparkling personality. Bob Crane also had a remarkable public career as treasurer, but is also known as a great singer and entertainer, specializing in the Irish songs that form an integral part of the Boston Irish political culture. When Bob was in office, he brought his musical talents and singing group, the Treasury Notes, to nursing homes and other centers to entertain the elderly, and he still does so today, as well as appearing at select political gatherings. Beyond the music, Bob exemplifies the cardinal virtue of loyalty in politics, and no one is more loyal to his old pal, Kevin White, than Bob Crane. When politicians gather in Massachusetts, Bob makes sure that Kevin is there and is honored for the great mayor he was and great American he is.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Jack Thomas' June 20 article from the Boston Globe be included in the RECORD, and I recommend it highly to my colleagues as an example of the type of politicians who valued friendships on both sides of the aisle and whom we can be proud of.

[From the Boston Globe, June 20, 2005]

THE LONER IN WINTER

(By Jack Thomas)

Having finished his cheeseburger and 7-Up at Doyle's Cafe in Jamaica Plain, Kevin H. White, the mayor of Boston from 1968 to 1983, got up from the corner booth and followed his pal of more than 40 years, former state treasurer Robert Q. Crane, who led the way into a back room so they could say hello to the monthly meeting of Romeo, a group of about 30 retired politicians, judges, reporters, and other scalawags from Boston's political past.

At 75, White is still trim, still handsome, and still dapper of dress, and he's still got the square jaw, the wispy white hair, the twinkling blue eyes, and the smile as wide as Commonwealth Avenue.

But for the man who defined politics in Boston over three different decades, these are difficult days.

Having gone through surgery that removed two-thirds of his stomach in 1970 and having survived a heart attack in 2001, he lives with a pacemaker. White always loved talking politics, but even simple conversation is a challenge now for two reasons. First, he is deaf in his right ear, and second, Alzheimer's disease is robbing his mind of those colorful memories of the days when he ran the city from the big office overlooking Faneuil Hall and, in the judgment of many, lifted Boston out of the doldrums and helped establish its reputation as one of America's favorite cities.

As Alzheimer's takes its toll, The Loner in Love With His City, as White was called, is even more of a loner these days and reluctant to speak publicly. But he girds himself and trails Crane into the back room, then brightens to hear applause from the gaggle of men, old and gray, who once had a say in running Boston a generation or two ago.

White shakes hands with former attorney general Robert Quinn and with Bernard "Bunny" Solomon, aide to governor Foster Furculo in the 1950s and now a trustee at Northeastern University, and then White stands in back, alongside Crane. "There are a couple of people here I want to introduce," says Bobby Hannan, a political reporter for the Boston Herald 40 years ago. "It's good to see Mr. Kevin White we're pleased to see you and your smiling face."

Most of the men put down their salad forks to applaud again.

"And," says Hannan, "former treasurer Bob Crane."

"You may not realize it," says Crane, never at a loss for blarney, "but this is the best luncheon you'll ever have, and the reason is that your guest is Francine Gannon," he says, pointing to one of Boston's wilier politicians, who served as an aide to congressmen Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill and Joseph Moakley and now to Senate President Robert E. Travaglini.

"Mr. Mayor," Hannan says deferentially, "would you want to say a word of greeting?" White winces.

He's unsure how to respond, uncertain what to say.

For an awkward instant, the room is quiet, until Crane leans in to White and says softly, "Say you're glad to be here."

White brightens, takes a step forward, smiles, and says in a strong voice, "I couldn't be more pleased to be here."

More applause. Do they cheer because he survived so many challenges in politics or because he just survived a challenge of old age?

A moment later, smiling and waving, White follows Crane from the room, out of the cafe, and into a car for the drive back to his home on Beacon Hill, where the surroundings are familiar, where he feels safer, and where the struggle with Alzheimer's is once again private.

White and Crane are the Romulus and Remus of Boston politics. Their friendship dates to the 1960s, when they campaigned together in Western Massachusetts, Crane for treasurer and White for secretary of state, an office he held from 1961 to 1967. The friendship grew through tennis holidays on Cape Cod and golf weekends in Florida and family vacations in Barbados and the Soviet Union, and who can say how many nights of counting votes and all the triumphs and losses and the laughter, too, that finally bring them together, as two old men, in a corner booth at Doyle's on a chilly afternoon in June.

Over White's left shoulder is a snapshot of the three who have served as mayor for nearly four decades: White, Raymond Flynn, and Thomas Menino, photographed under a Pickwick Ale sign. Over White's right shoulder is a copy of the Globe, Nov. 8, 1967, the first day of what would become the New Boston.

"White Goes In as Mayor with 5 New Councilors," reads a headline about White's victory over Louise Day Hicks. A photograph of the party at the Sheraton Plaza shows White, then 38, Hicks, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, governor John A. Volpe, and, in the background, Crane.

"I'm always in the background," he grumbles. "All my life, you've been putting me in the back row."

The political wars are in back of White now, and the punch and counterpunch of politics have faded into lore.

How much does he miss it?

"What?"

Crane: "How much do you miss being [in] office?"

White: "I loved every minute I was there but . . ." He pauses.

Crane: "The answer is . . ."

White: "Are you speaking for me or for us?"

Crane: "Us. We're sophisticated enough to know that our day is gone, and that we shouldn't be around bothering people."

Around Crane, White laughs heartily, but in conversation, he often asks Crane and a guest the same question three and four times in an hour: How long have we known each other? Where did you grow up?

How does he feel on a scale of 1 to 10?

"How what?"

How do you feel?

"About what?"

How is your health?

"I'm in good shape. I could beat you at anything," he says to Crane.

But your memory is not what it used to be?

"Well, that's for sure."

"You are forgetful," says Crane.

"Yeah, I am. But I don't travel or do things that would make that something to worry about."

You mean you spend more time with friends than with strangers.

"That's a good line, yeah, much more."

White brightens at a question about his daughter Patricia, who announced last week that she is a candidate for City Council.

How much of a role will he play? "I don't know. If she asked me . . . I take pride in watching her, and I don't want to interfere."

As mayor, White maintained a hideaway office on Tremont Street. During a private

interview late in his final term, he was asked about his legacy.

"The Prudential Center is [Mayor] Johnny Hynes. Center Plaza and City Hall belong to [Mayor] John Collins. But Faneuil Hall?" he said, leaning forward and pointing his thumb to his chest. "Faneuil Hall is mine!"

As he walks around Boston today, what gives him that level of satisfaction?

"I don't think of it much, but if I had to . . . if I thought . . . or if I were walking with you I don't think it's because of anything I've done. I'm not being coy, but I think it's the town, because Boston has a certain . . . what's the word?"

"Pride?" says Crane.

"Pride's a good word," says White.

"Spirit?"

"Spirit?" says White. "Yeah, Boston's got . . . is it charm?"

"Whatever it's got, Kevin, people say you were the best thing that happened to Boston. People walk right by me to get to you, which doesn't set too well with me."

White is embarrassed by the description of himself as the best thing that's happened to Boston.

"I'm not being a con merchant, but I don't think that's really true. A lot of people contribute. Don't you think the people of Boston have a certain . . ."

He pauses, tapping the table in frustration. "It has nothing to do with me, but Boston has and I can't quite . . . it's a certain . . ."

His face lights up as the word comes to mind. "Boston has a certain panache!"

At times, White and Crane seem as scripted as a Marx Brothers routine.

"I didn't recognize you in this 1979 picture," says Crane, "because you've got your hands in your own pockets."

"Aw, don't listen to him," says White, "honest to God."

How does White spend his time these days? "Well, I don't see many people."

Among those Crane lists who spend time with White, lunching, golfing, or attending Red Sox games, are Robert Beal, the property owner; George Carney, owner of Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park; former treasurer John Driscoll; publicist George Regan; Jack Connors, chairman of the Hill, Holiday ad agency; and City Councilor Stephen J. Murphy.

"People say I spend a lot of time with Kevin, but it's time I love," says Crane. "It's time we love, because we're perfectly compatible. We disagree about nothing."

White smiles.

"We really do get along, don't we?"

HAITI—THE NEED FOR BALANCED ENGAGEMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, events in Haiti over the last few months have been quite discouraging to those who seek stability and prosperity in that country.

A year has passed since the forced removal of President Jean Bertrand Aristide, the Nation's democratically elected leader. At the time, members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), as well as members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) regional block lamented and criticized Aristide's removal.

Not only was Aristide's removal illegal, but it served to alienate those portions of the Haitian population which supported him, and further

wounded their faith in democracy. This disillusionment and alienation is a cornerstone of the current situation in the country.

Without question, conditions in the Haiti are worse since Aristide's removal, and continue to deteriorate. Since last September, more than 700 people have been killed. At the July General Meeting of CARICOM, Secretary General, Dr. Edwin Carrington voiced the organization's concern over the deteriorating conditions in the country, as it made the success of October elections unlikely.

Indeed, the electoral picture continues to be discouraging. Out of a total of 4.5 million eligible voters only 150,000 have actually registered, with supporters of Aristide's Lavalas Party—a large portion of the electorate—refusing to participate. There is also widespread criticism about the disbursement of promised aid for Haiti from international donors.

A recent editorial in the publication *CaribNews* argues that CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration should all increase their involvement in finding a solution to the Haitian crisis. While CARICOM and the CBC still remain disturbed by the removal of Haiti's democratically elected government, there is recognition that the situation in Haiti demands our increased engagement.

The Bush Administration has continuously argued that the interim government in Haiti be allowed to prepare for elections, with the collaboration of the UN MINSTAH force. The CBC and CARICOM have waited warily, but the situation is getting worse. The U.S. Administration has seemed to place the blame squarely on Aristide/Lavalas supporters, but that is neither an accurate or fair assessment of the complex mix of factors which combine to create the current Haitian reality. Many groups are responsible for the instability.

However, among most experts, there is very little disagreement that the root causes of Haiti's problems are economic. According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund, economic conditions in Haiti deteriorated significantly during the early 2000s. The economic deterioration has been exacerbated by the political turmoil and devastating floods of 2004 which led to a contraction of 3.75 per cent of GDP. This has resulted in economic stagnation, high inflation, and widespread unemployment.

Economic and trade development is the overarching need in Haiti, and will remain so, with or without elections in the fall. CARICOM, the CBC, and the Bush Administration are all well placed to ensure that such development takes place. There has been work towards that end already.

Separately, members and supporters of the Lavalas Party must be persuaded to trust the system and participate in the transitional process. The problem is that major stakeholders such as the interim Haitian administration, the UN, and the Bush Administration have no credibility with Lavalas/Aristide supporters. The actions and positions of all three have at times been very counterproductive to national unity. This is another avenue where CARICOM and the CBC can become engaged.

CBC and CARICOM may be the only groups with enough credibility to compel Pro-Aristide supporters to enter the process. I believe there is growing recognition of this fact. In the meantime, it is my hope that the Administration will take a more balanced and objec-

tive approach in helping Haiti to find the peace and prosperity that it deserves.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 5, 2005]

WHY THE BLACK CAUCUS, THE BUSH WHITE HOUSE AND CARICOM SHOULD BECOME ENGAGED IN HAITI

The headlines rarely recall Haiti's glorious past when it defeated France's mighty army in 1804 and emerged as the first Black republic in the Western Hemisphere.

Sadly, they certainly don't call to mind the Caribbean nation's rich cultural heritage.

Instead, they draw international attention on a daily basis to what U.S. Congressman Charles Rangel in an interview with this newspaper on Monday quite correctly called the country's "pain and suffering over such a long period of time."

Some example of recent headlines: "Gunfire erupts as New Haitian Ministers Take Office in Port au Prince." Boniface Alexandre, the country's interim President was delivering a speech at a ceremony installing four new cabinet ministers when heavy gunfire erupted near the Presidential Palace.

"Foreign troops likely needed in Haiti for years." A story built on the words of United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Jean-Marie Guehono, who told a news agency "Haiti will need (UN) peacekeepers so long that there's not a credible, effective police and judiciary."

"Haitian refugees rescued from sinking Boat off St. Maarten." Authorities in the Dutch dependent territory rescued 63 migrants from Haiti from a sailboat that was sinking off the island's coast.

Each story paints its own picture of a nation in the throes of yet another disaster, a chapter of anarchy, death and a further descent into further tragic circumstances, if that's possible.

Hence, Congressman Rangel's sensible offer to use his considerable influence on Capitol Hill in a search for a solution to Haiti's apparent intent to destroy what's left of the 200 year old nation.

Yes, he is right to try to bring together the U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, and CARICOM leaders who have behaved like Pontius Pilate, washing their hands of a troubled neighbor which seems unable these day to pursue peace and prosperity.

The unfortunate and unnecessary ouster of Aristide and the installation of interim President Boniface Alexandre and stopgap Prime Minister, Gerard Latortue were the handiwork of the Bush Administration which hated Jean Bertrand Aristide with such a passion that it even sided with convicted murderers, drug traffickers and violent criminals to get rid of him.

Having put a gun to Aristide's head and forced him to flee, the President said he was "kidnapped" and taken into exile, Washington has shown little interest in helping the country out of the quagmire.

It has left the mess to the UN to clean up while starving the country of the hundreds of millions pledged by the international community to aid re-development and re-habilitation.

It's a crying shame that the Bush White House, an architect of the Western Hemisphere's Democratic Charter, would turn around and blast holes into the document, thus making the whole exercise nothing more than a sham, a public relations exercise that was empty of any real morality.

Clearly, Rangel, a decent public figure, should pursue his idea of reaching out to CARICOM and to Rice, not to mention Haitians who want to see their country move forward economically.

An astute and experienced lawmaker, Rangel is fully aware that the task would not be easy. But it is worth a try.

He also knows and was the first to point out that he couldn't achieve his goal by working alone. The Congressional Black Caucus, all 43 members in the House of Representatives and the Senate would have to bring their collective influence to the effort.

"I would be glad to get the 43 members of the Congressional Black Caucus to support anything that makes sense to stabilize the government of Haiti," was the way Rangel put it.

Yes, we, like Rangel, are aware that others have tried and failed but we have a special responsibility to be unrelenting in our pursuit of reconciliation.

For without it, we would stand accused of acting like Nero who played the fiddle while Rome was burning.

Rangel and the other members of the Congressional Black caucus have the credibility and the interest to act as honest brokers. CARICOM too must be involved in the search for peace. It may have been justified in criticizing LaTortue for his role in the tragedy now unfolding in his country. And it has already made its point by declining to reinstate Haiti into the community until free and fair elections are held.

But staying on the sidelines while the country moves closer and closer to civil war is not really an option.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER FOUR CHRIS J. SCHERKENBACH TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach, who died on June 28 from injuries sustained during combat operations in Afghanistan and in service to our country.

Chris was proud to serve in the United States Army for 18 years, and as a Night Stalker was a member of our Special Operations forces for the past 8 years. He had been assigned to B Company, 3rd Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris J. Scherkenbach's awards and decorations include the Air Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon and Senior Army Aviator Badge. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and an Air Medal with Valor device, the Master Army Aviator Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Chris's family describes him as a strong man who had a firm sense of justice, who believed in his mission and stood up for what he knew was right, and who perished doing what he loved.

We should all remember Chris's courage and his ultimate sacrifice for our nation—"Greater love hath no man than to give up his

life for others." The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach leaves behind.

A native of Jacksonville, Chris was born in Illinois on November 3, 1964. A devoted husband to his wife Michelle, Chris was also a loving son, brother and uncle and will be dearly missed. To all of Chris's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

SUPPORT OF JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which has provided vocational training and employment opportunities to the blind and disabled since 1971. The JWOD Program, which brings together the Federal Government and approximately 600 non-profit organizations supporting the blind and disabled, is a model public-private partnerships for advancing the collective values of our nation.

The unemployment rate among the blind and disabled in our country is estimated at approximately 70 percent. It is troubling that we as a society have not created a system that successfully makes the American Dream a real possibility for all Americans, and particularly for those who are blind or disabled. In my many years of public service, I have become acquainted with numerous individuals with disability. I have always been impressed with their vigor and spirit and their willingness to take on any task in order to contribute positively to our community and our society. These Americans do not come asking for a handout, but rather ask that we as public officials provide them with the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency, personal fulfillment, and full inclusion in the benefits of our society.

The JWOD Program stands as one of the most successful programs in addressing economic and social equality for blind and disabled members of our communities. The non-profits participating in JWOD have provided training and job opportunities to 42,000 individuals who are blind or disabled. The Federal Government supports these organizations through the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, which directs all Federal agencies to purchase certain products and services only from JWOD-affiliated organizations that train and employ blind and disabled. The net result is that the Federal Government uses its purchasing power to ensure a steady revenue stream to JWOD-affiliated organizations while at the same time acquiring products and supplies at a fair market price.

It is also important to recognize the important role played by the National Industries for

the Blind (NIB) and National Institute for the Severely Handicapped (NISH)-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities. These non-profit organizations provide advice to the Federal Government as to which products or services it should include in its JWOD Procurement List, while at the same time providing technical, logistical, and marketing assistance to the 600 JWOD-affiliated organizations. These organizations also play an important role in advocating on behalf of the employment of blind and disabled individuals in traditional businesses and organizations. Needless to say, the success of JWOD would not be possible if not for the NIB and NISH-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities.

As we Americans strive to form a more compassionate society and a more compassionate world, it is important that we recognize the tremendous success of the JWOD Program and the dedication of those individuals and organizations who have made this program a success. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm their support for JWOD, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation in support of this important program.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees by Representative CAPPS.

Our greatest obligation is to protect the people we represent. That means protecting their health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is important that we do not let those responsible for MBTE contamination of our water off the hook.

Clean and safe drinking water is vital to our health, not a luxury.

So I want to make sure that chemicals that cause cancer or other illnesses that threaten the health, even the lives, of my constituents are not able to contaminate the water we drink.

That is why I have been working hard to gain funds to pay for the removal of perchlorate from groundwater in San Bernardino County.

And that is why I am concerned about MBTE and its impact on the communities I represent.

MBTE is a dangerous chemical that has contaminated the groundwater in thousands of sites across the country.

Unfortunately, instead of holding the manufacturers of MBTE accountable for the harm their products have caused, some Republicans in Congress want to make the American people pay.

I believe in being accountable and responsible. This Administration has talked about accountability, but now Republican leaders are now trying to pass the buck.

The cost of cleaning up MBTE-contaminated water nationwide is estimated to be \$29 billion.

It is wrong to ask the county and city governments and local water agencies to pay.

Their budgets are already under a lot of stress, and they would have to raise the funds from taxpayers and ratepayers.

We must reject provisions that give corporate polluters a free pass. MBTE manufacturers must be held accountable for the harm they have caused and clean up their own mess.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCLUSION OF WAR IN THE PACIFIC AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC THEATERS OF SECOND WORLD WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt support for the House Concurrent Resolution 191 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

We are a free and prosperous nation because the Greatest Generation defeated tyranny in World War II. We owe them many debts, including remembering and teaching new generations of Americans that freedom is not free.

September 2, 2005, will mark the 60th anniversary of the final surrender of Japan, which occurred on the USS *Missouri*. This is a date we must remember and commemorate.

We remember the 16 million Americans who served in the military during World War II. We remember 670,000 U.S. casualties including 400,000 deaths. The Greatest Generation faced some of our Nation's darkest hours and emerged victorious. We learn from their courage and selflessness. We give thanks for their resolve.

We remember the sacrifices and struggles of the American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and members of the Coast Guard in World War II. We remember their families at home who prayed for victory and the safe return of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and neighbors while making their own sacrifices for the war effort.

We remember those who fought in the Pacific campaigns against the Japanese Empire. We remember sea battles in the Coral Sea, at Midway, in Leyte Gulf—the greatest naval battle in history—and Lingayen Gulf, which turned the tide of the Pacific war and led to ultimate victory.

We remember Iwo Jima, where more than 7,000 Americans and 20,000 Japanese died. We remember a battle that raged for more than a month between February and March 1945, and we remember the powerful image of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

We remember the Battle of Okinawa, the largest sea-air-land battle in history, waged between April and June 1945. We remember the 38,000 Americans wounded, the 12,000 killed or listed as missing, and the more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscripts killed and the 100,000 Okinawan civilians who died.

The sacrifice of the Greatest Generation inspires us today. We remember with our words, but must also remember with deeds; by fully

funding and supporting health care for our veterans; by passing and implementing a new GI Bill of Rights, which meets the needs of our soldiers and veterans in the 21st century; by realizing our troops lived with the creed that they would leave no one behind in battle and we must leave no veteran behind in addressing wounds suffered on our behalf.

I am proud to support this resolution to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Let our prayers be filled with thankfulness. Let our words be replete with commemorations. And let our deeds be worthy of the sacrifice of the great Americans who answered the call in our darkest hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, OREGON

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Hillsboro, Oregon and celebrate the dedication of its new Civic Center on July 16, 2005. On this special occasion, I would not only like to reflect upon Hillsboro and Oregon's proud heritage, but the vision of the future that made it possible.

As the Pacific Northwest celebrates the bicentennial anniversary of the achievements of Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery, I find it fitting that Hillsboro is bravely and confidently launching ahead its own future by implementing the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan. Mayor Tom Hughes, the Hillsboro City Council, Hillsboro's citizens and various community organizations came together to determine what their community should look like in the coming decades. This forward-thinking plan, like the new Hillsboro Civic Center, will lay the foundation for decades of growth, civic engagement, environmental conservation, and economic prosperity.

America looks to the future with the same pioneering spirit that guided the Corps of Discovery. As we celebrate our return to space with the launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, Hillsboro, a city born from that same pioneering spirit, also celebrates its own launch towards a future of its own making. By focusing on environmentally sustainable designs, the Hillsboro Civic Center is a triumph to conservation, using 100 percent renewable energy in its electricity, 90 percent recycled building material, and the most modern of construction techniques with certified wood from local sustainable forests.

The building techniques and energy efficient design used in construction of the Hillsboro Civic Center earned it a GOLD rating, the highest standard awarded by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

I applaud Mayor Hughes, the Hillsboro City Council, and citizens of Hillsboro for their vision and commitment to their community, the environment, and the future development of Oregon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I was in my district participating in the first meeting of the New Jersey Flood Mitigation Task Force. This Task Force is working to help prevent the devastating flooding that occurred for a number of my constituents earlier this year. Due to the schedule, I missed roll-call votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 363 "aye" and rollcall No. 364 "aye."

CHINA NATIONAL OFFSHORE OIL CORPORATION LTD'S TAKEOVER BID FOR UNOCAL CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter I sent on July 13 to the law firm Akin Gump outlining my concerns with regard to the firm's representation of China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd. (CNOOC) in its takeover bid for Unocal Corp. of California.

A critical element that has been absent in much of the discussion surrounding free trade is the fact that CNOOC is not a private foreign company. It is a Chinese state-run entity—70 percent state-owned.

Let there be any confusion about who we are dealing with when we speak of the Chinese Communist government, I want to highlight a quote from a July 13 Washington Post article. An adviser to the Chinese central government, who spoke on the condition of anonymity fearing government disciplinary action, said, "No matter if it's rogue or a friend's oil, we don't care. Human rights? We don't care. We care about oil. Whether Iran would have nuclear weapons or not is not our business. America cares, but Iran is not our neighbor. Anyone who helps China with energy is a friend."

Is there no bright line to separate who the lobbyists in Washington will or will not represent?

Mr. R. BRUCE MCLEAN,
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New Hampshire Ave NW., Washington DC.

DEAR MR. MCLEAN: I write today in response to a packet of information I received in late June, which included a letter from the chief executive officer of China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd. (CNOOC) peppered with assurances, aimed at easing growing congressional concern, that CNOOC's bid to "merge" with Unocal Corp. of California was in fact friendly. I must say in all candor that I was shocked that the packet arrived courtesy of Akin Gump—one of Washington's most distinguished and reputable lobbying and law firms.

Having worked in Washington for over three decades, I understand that lobbying is part and parcel of everyday life in the nation's capital. Every day, good people walk the halls of Congress making the case for

their constituency, advocating on any number of issues and causes with great passion and insight. That said, when I noted that CNOOC was one of your newest clients, I immediately thought, "Is there no bright line to separate who the lobbyists in Washington will or will not represent?"

A critical part of the discussion recently surrounding the free market, charges of protectionism and the politicization of trade within the context of CNOOC's takeover bid for Unocal is that CNOOC is not a private foreign company. CNOOC is a Chinese state-run entity—70 percent state-owned. At the end of the day, it has to be obvious that any decisions on the issues of energy, economic and ultimately national security regarding the operations of this company will be based on what is advantageous to the Chinese Communist government. It is noteworthy that a Pentagon report released in January by the Office of Net Assessment has warned that China's need for oil, gas and other energy resources appears to be driving the country toward becoming an expansionist power.

As Irwin Stelzer with the Hudson Institute recently wrote, "China has decided to use its state resources to convert its major companies into important multi-nationals—part of an aggressive policy of projecting Chinese power on a global basis. If that's not political, nothing is . . . That policy is most noticeable in oil markets. China's acquisition of Unocal's substantial Asian assets will increase its political influence in that part of the world."

But we need not look to "inside the Beltway" policy analysts for insight into China's global ambitions. Chen Yonglin, the high ranking Chinese defector with intimate knowledge of China's worldwide intelligence gathering efforts, has said, "The United States is considered by the Chinese Communist Party as the largest enemy, the major strategic rival."

I recall with great irony the heated annual debates in Congress surrounding Most Favored Nation trade status and ultimately Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China. The coalition that battled granting China this privilege faced an almost certain perennial loss. Even so, it served as a valuable forum in which to highlight just what kind of a country we are dealing with in China. The list of egregious actions laid at the feet of the Communist government of the People's Republic of China is long and spans decades—human rights abuses, religious persecution including torture and imprisonment, slave labor practices, forced sterilization, espionage operations against U.S. businesses, software piracy and intellectual property theft, military spying. At the time many argued with tremendous passion, business interests foremost among them, that trade with China would change China, not the other way around.

But recent reports have painted a grim picture of the purported "information age" in China. Chinese bloggers who have the audacity to type in words like "freedom," "democracy," or "human rights" receive a message, courtesy of Microsoft software, that says, "Prohibited language in text, please delete." It seems China is changing us after all.

And the change is perhaps no where more apparent than in the willingness of American companies and lobbyists to do the bidding of the Chinese government—a government which despite increased "engagement" over the last several years continues to pose a national security threat, blatantly disrespects free trade norms, persistently violates human rights, consistently stifles political dissent and is indiscriminate in its repression, arrest and torture of varied faiths targeting the Uygher Muslim population, the underground Protestant and Catholic house

churches, the Tibetan Buddhists and the Falun Gong spiritual movement.

I am left to wonder if it was Akin Gump which counseled CNOOC, and ultimately the Chinese government, to first caution President Bush not to politicize the Unocal takeover bid, and then warn Congress to "correct its mistaken ways of politicizing economic and trade issues and stop interfering in the normal commercial exchanges between enterprises of the two countries."

Ultimately, I question the appropriateness of an American firm advising and being on the payroll of the Chinese government. In my opinion, their interests, and all which that encompasses, are simply not deserving of your representation and only serve to degrade the strong reputation for integrity your firm has enjoyed over the years.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

P.S. During the presidency of Ronald Reagan, no major law firm or lobbying organization would have represented the Soviet Union if it had tried to take over an American oil company.

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER SINGH JOINT SESSION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who will be addressing a joint session of Congress next week.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Singh at a dinner in April 2002 at the U.S. Embassy. An Oxford economist by training, Prime Minister Singh ushered in a new era of economic liberalization in India. Through slashing red tape and eliminating bureaucracy, he cut India's deficit and opened the economy, leading to India's status as a primary figure in the global economy.

I have had the opportunity to visit India three times, and led 13 of my colleagues to visit India for their first time. In my own district, we boast the 2nd largest South Asian community in the country.

On behalf of the merchants of Little India on 74th Street in Jackson Heights in my district, and as the former co-chair of the India Caucus, I look forward to the Prime Minister's remarks and congratulate him and the Indian American Community for the historic address.

BUILDING BETTER RELATIONS WITH AFRO-COLOMBIANS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of my colleagues an important visit by a delegation of Afro-Colombian leaders to Washington this week. The Vice President of the Colombian House of Representatives, the Honorable Dr. Edgar Torres, and the Governor of Chocó, the Honorable Dr. Julio Ibagüen are the leaders of this auspicious delegation. These Afro-Colombian leaders have come to the United States to raise the

awareness of the conditions of the Afro-Colombian community in Colombia, most specifically the province of Chocó, and to request congressional assistance in obtaining and directing resources to the problems of this community.

Representing a quarter of Colombia's population, Afro-Colombians are two-thirds of the nation's extreme poor, have illiteracy of 45 percent, and have inadequate access to health care. They have lower standards of living than most other groups in Colombia. They often live in isolated and remote communities with little access for advancement and improvement.

As a leader in the legislative chamber, Dr. Torres is one of the most influential Afro-Colombians in the nation and has worked to raise awareness of the struggle of Afro-Colombians. He has championed and pursued greater multinational awareness and assistance for the people of Colombia. He has worked to raise the issue to the global community of the impoverishment and challenges facing his people. Dr. Torres has been a powerful, important and poignant voice for the struggle and desire for equality among Afro-Colombians.

The department of Chocó has the highest percentage of Afro-Colombians in the country. It also has the lowest per-capita level of government investment in health, education, and infrastructure. The people of Chocó suffer daily with poverty, illiteracy, lack of medical care, and lack of opportunity. They have great plans for advancement but little opportunity.

Governor Ibagüen has worked to improve the infrastructure for the province. He has advanced plans and strategies designed to provide new hope and opportunity to the people of Chocó and to address the pressing and urgent needs of the community. He has seen firsthand the hardship and misery of Afro-Colombians and works with local, national, and international agencies to overcome these daunting challenges. He nonetheless could use the assistance and aid of the 109th Congress and the American people.

These Afro-Colombian leaders are here in Washington to build a dialogue with the international community on behalf of the people of Colombia. They are trying to find allies and alliances with leaders of this country and the international community to help wage the fight for self-sufficiency and equal treatment of Afro-Colombians. They should be commended in their efforts to reach out and ask for our assistance. We should be gracious in our commitment to help their cause. They are trying to reach out to us and we must be prepared to respond.

There are a number of opportunities available to this Congress to reach out to the Colombian people, and Afro-Colombians in particular. In August, there will be a dialogue hosted in Colombia to raise the awareness of the Afro-Colombian challenge. I and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have extended our support to these efforts and I hope my colleagues in the House will join us. My colleague, the Honorable GREGORY MEEKS, is already planning a congressional delegation to visit the country and to participate in the dialogue on race.

In addition to these congressional activities, the Pan American Development Foundation and the Afro-Latino Development Alliance are providing important information, awareness,

and assistance to the Afro-Colombian struggle. They are hosting Dr. Torres and Dr. Ibagüen in their visit and tour this week. They have played an indomitable role in finding opportunities for assisting Afro-Colombians. I expect that these organizations will continue their hard work on behalf of Afro-Colombians.

The United States has provided substantial assistance to the Government of Colombia, most of it through Plan Colombia to assist the Government of Colombia in waging war against political insurgents and narcotics traffickers. The Afro-Colombian delegation believes that a shift in resources from military to economic development purposes in communities such as the Chocó province will achieve greater success than our military assistance.

It is important that this Congress take action to help the Afro-Colombian people. It is unconscionable to think that an entire group of people would suffer in this manner in this day and age. We must do more as the representatives of this caring and loving nation. I urge my colleagues to reach out to Dr. Torres and Dr. Ibagüen while they are here this week. I urge my colleagues to extend aid and assistance to Afro-Colombian populations.

I have introduced the following resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 175) to encourage greater assistance and recognition to Afro-descendant populations throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. This resolution is another step in addressing the Afro-Colombian struggle. I submit this copy of the resolution into the RECORD.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Whereas during Black History Month it is important that we not forget that African-Americans are not the only survivors of the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas like the United States, many European nations benefited greatly from the colonization of Latin America and the Caribbean and their participation in the slave trade;

Whereas the story of African descendants in all of the Americas remains untold, leading them to be forgotten, made invisible, and allowed to suffer unjustly;

Whereas it is important to acknowledge that as a result of the slave trade and immigration, approximately 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, making them the largest population of persons of African descent outside of Africa;

Whereas Afro-descendants are present in most all Latin American countries, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

Whereas the size of Afro-descendant populations vary in range from less than 1 percent in some countries to as much as 30 percent in Colombia and 46 percent in Brazil and make up the majority in some Spanish speaking Caribbean nations, such as Cuba and the Dominican Republic;

Whereas Afro-descendant populations have made significant economic, social, and cultural contributions to their countries and the Western Hemisphere from their unfortunate involvement in the transatlantic slave

trade to their recent contributions to trade, tourism, and other industries;

Whereas although persons of African descent have made significant achievements in education, employment, economic, political, and social spheres in some countries, the vast majority are marginalized—living in impoverished communities where they are excluded from centers of education, government, and basic human rights based upon the color of their skin and ancestry;

Whereas Afro-descendants have shorter life expectancies, higher rates of infant mortality, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, higher rates of illiteracy, and lower incomes than do other populations;

Whereas Afro-descendants encounter problems of access to healthcare, basic education, potable water, housing, land titles, credit, equal justice and representation under the law, political representation, and other economic, political, health, and basic human rights; and

Whereas skin color and ancestry have led African-Americans in the United States and African descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean to share similar injustices, leading to economic, social, health, and political inequalities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and honors African descendants in the Americas for their contributions to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the countries in the Americas, particularly in Latin American and Caribbean societies;

(2) recognizes that as a result of their skin color and ancestry, African descendants in

the Americas have wrongfully experienced economic, social, and political injustices;

(3) urges the President to take appropriate measures to encourage the celebration and remembrance of the achievements of African descendants in the Americas and a resolution of injustices suffered by African descendants in the Americas;

(4) encourages the United States and the international community to work to ensure that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality healthcare is made available, sustainable environmental resources, including land where applicable, is provided, and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

(5) encourages the United States and the international community to achieve these goals in Latin America and the Caribbean by—

(A) promoting research that focuses on identifying and eradicating racial disparities in economic, political, and social spheres;

(B) promoting, funding, and creating development programs that focus on Afro-descendant communities;

(C) providing technical support and training to Afro-descendant advocacy groups that work to uphold basic human rights in the region;

(D) promoting the creation of an international working group that focuses on problems of communities of Afro-descendants in the Americas; and

(E) promoting trade and other bilateral and multilateral agreements that take into account the needs of Afro-descendant communities.

CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN LONDON, ENGLAND ON JULY 7, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I am both saddened and angered by the terrorist attacks on the people of London on July 7, 2005. I extend my sincere and most heartfelt condolences to the families of victims. It is shameful that innocent citizens can no longer live in peace throughout the world.

It is because of such attempts to derail our united fight for human liberty that we must continue to hold steady and strong in this War on Terror.

I will in all ways continue this fight to protect our inherent rights to live free of fear from radical extremists. It is for such reasons that I supported the supplemental spending bill to aid our troops in this War on Terror. We must never falter or retreat.

The lives lost in the tragedy of July 7, 2005 will remain etched in our memories as proof that fear tactics must never win. Our prayers remain with the families of the victims and all the people of London.